THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Under the Scheme for Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment, Central Assistance is provided to the States/UTs for setting up new observation Homes, Juvenile Homes, Special Homes and Aftercare Institutions. Grants in aid under the scheme are also provided for the maintenance and upgradation of existing institutions. In the State of Bihar 10 Observation Homes, 8 Juvenile Homes, 5 Special Homes and 2 Aftercare institutions have been established for the neglected and delinquer children.

Prospective entry of FCI in the Global Market for the Export of Foodgrains

1784. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has sought Government's permission to enter the global market for export of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir. Government have, however, authorised the FCI to export/sell for the purpose of export from the Central Pool during 1996-97, a quantity of upto 5 lakh tonnes of wheat against the carryover commitment made in 1995-96 and upto 5 lakh tonnes of fine and superfine rice including the carryover commitment made in 1995-96. Against this authorisation, FCI has sold for the purpose of export a quantity of about 4.43 lakh tonnes of wheat and 0.52 lakh tonnes of rice till 31.10.96.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Indian money stuck up ID CUBA

1785. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian money both Government and private worth 50 million dollars is stuck up in Cuba with the Cuban Government expressing its inabili ty to pay;

(b) the amount owed to Indian Export and Import Bank and the amount owed to private companies etc. involved in stuck up;

(c) steps taken with the Cuban Government to recover the payment and the results thereof;

(d) whether there is any clause of international arbitration in the contracts/ agreements; and

(e) if so, whether it has been invoked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The issue of out-standing debt owed by Cuba to EXIM Bank and private companies has been taken up with the Cuban side in the meeting of the Indo-Cuban Trade Revival Committee held on 18th -19th November, 1996 in New Delhi, under the aegis of Indo-Cuban Joint Commission. The Cuban side have ack-nowledged debts of a level of US $ 36 million plus interest, with the understanding that the figure would be reconciled between the two sides.

(d) and (e) The loan agreements between EXIM Bank of India and the buyer in Cuba had provided for an arbitration clause in the event of dispute; as per information available, as there is no dispute, the invocation of this clause was not undertaken.